

1896.

THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE


Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PAIGNTON :

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THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1896.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Paignton Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this my Sixth Annual Report, I have to state that the year has been a busy one so far as public works are concerned, and at the same time some private work on private roads has been carried on, but great difficulty has been experienced by the Council in the application of the Private Streets Works' Act. An honest effort has been made to carry out this Act, but the provisions for objections have been so frequently taken advantage of that the progress I would gladly have reported has been prevented. Still this work on private roads should receive the serious consideration of the Council, and no slight objection should turn them from seeing the Act carried out.

The contract for the provision of relief sewers for surface water is not yet completed, but the work is still in progress, and will, I trust, be soon finished.

Sewers.

The work on the new sewer at Preston is being carried on as quickly as can be expected, and within six months every house in Preston should be connected with the public sewer, and have an efficient supply of water for sanitary purposes. The public water supply to Preston, so far as the Council is concerned, is complete, but until the new sewer was finished it was not considered desirable to compel every houseowner to take in the water. Notices to take in the water should now be served and insisted upon.

Preston.

Last year I reported that the new reservoir was completed, but it was found impossible to make all the necessary connections with the old reservoir, so that full advantage could not be taken of this supply; however, during the summer this work was finished, and now there should not be any

Water.

difficulty in supplying every house in the town. A systematic inspection of the town and Preston should now be made, and town water taken into every dwelling house.

I regret the Council did not see their way to carry out the requirements of the Local Government Board with regard to an isolation hospital, on account of the very serious cost; still some provision has been made by building an isolation cottage, which, when finished, will be very serviceable for the time being. Application has been made to the Local Government Board for power to borrow money to defray the expense of a disinfecter and the necessary buildings for it.

Births.

There were 166 births registered during the year (boys 86, girls 80), giving a birth rate, on an estimated population to the middle of the year of 7,420, of 22·2 per 1,000 per annum, and curiously the number is exactly the same as last year. The natural increase of the population for the year was 60.

Deaths.

The deaths registered during the year were 106; of these 44 were males and 62 females, giving a death-rate of 14·2 per 1,000 per annum. The deaths were one more than registered last year. The following table shews the number of deaths at the various ages:—

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| 1 year and under 5 | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| 5 „ „ 15 | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| 15 „ „ 25 | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| 25 „ „ 65 | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| 65 and upwards | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | 106 |

Of the 40 deaths 15 were over 70 years, 14 over 80, and one 93.

The following is a summary of the causes of death registered during the year, viz. :

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Scarlet fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhœa (two were over 80 years of age) | | | | | 4 |
| Phthisis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Diseases of the organs of respiration | | | | ... | 19 |
| Diseases of the organs of circulation | | | | ... | 8 |
| Injuries | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Other Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | 106 |

The deaths registered as due to zymotic disease and notifiable were 4, giving a death rate due to zymotic diseases of 0·5 per 1000 per annum and is as usual exceedingly low.

The infant mortality was 11, and measured by the proportion of one year of age and under to the number of births registered is 66·4 per 1000, and is a considerable decrease on last year, when it was 102·4 per 1000; this is very satisfactory.

The deaths from Phthisis were 12 and an increase of 3 on last year, giving a death rate of 1·6 per 1000. This rate is the average of all England, but is influenced by the influx of invalids to the town.

The following notifications were received during the year, viz.—

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Erysipilas | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |

Notification
Act.

The Scarlet Fever was of a very mild type, and only caused one death. The number of cases would probably have been fewer had we had any isolation accommodation. In one house 4 cases occurred, and in another 3. Of these 24 cases 8 were notified in January and 6 in February, and were really connected with the outbreak of the autumn of 1895. During the autumn of 1896, only 4 cases were notified, viz., 1 in October, 1 in November and 2 in December.

Scarlet
Fever.

There were 10 cases notified, but only once did the disease spread from the original case, and this was due to contact at school. Two deaths were registered as due to this disease.

Diphtheria.

All the 12 cases were of a mild type, and only one death was registered as due to this disease. Two of the cases were traced to a source outside Paignton. At the end of every case of zymotic disease, disinfection was carefully carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and wherever any sanitary defect was found on the premises the same was at once removed and the premises thoroughly cleansed.

Enteric
Fever.

Vaccination is carefully looked after and the following particulars are supplied by the Vaccination Office, Mr. Revell:—

Vaccination.

Total number of births 166.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Successfully Vaccinated | ... | ... | ... | 128 |
| Postponed by Medical Certificate | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Certified as unsusceptible | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Died Unvaccinated | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Left the town and Vac. Officer apprised | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Left the town and cannot be traced | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

Unvaccinated in addition to those postponed 19

Of these 19 most of them are under 3 months old.

A copy of Dr. Thompson's report on Measles was received from the Local Government Board and carefully perused. So far as Paignton is concerned with its limited isolation accommodation, I cannot recommend my Council to place Measles upon the list of notifiable diseases. Unfortunately the public do not look upon Measles as a serious disease and as a consequence cases are often neglected. In the hope of bringing the seriousness of this disease before the public, the following memorandum has been printed, and will be circulated on Measles appearing in the town.

Measles.

MEMORANDUM OF MEASLES.

Issued by order of the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PAIGNTON.

Very Important to the Parent of every Child.

MEASLES is a very infectious disease, and in order that steps may be taken to prevent it becoming prevalent here it is important you should know the following facts.

Measles as a cause of death is only second upon the list of dangerous infectious diseases.

That many deaths might be prevented is certain, and it is in this hope that this memorandum is issued. Death may be caused by the severity of the attack itself or by its after effects, such as bronchitis, ear disease, &c.

What is important is that it may leave the constitution permanently injured and sow the seeds of many future illnesses.

The ill effects of Measles are all intensified when the disease becomes prevalent in cold weather. Measles is infectious from its commencement, and remains so for at least three weeks.

It is very important that parents and guardians of children should know and remember that measles is infectious for three or four days before any rash appears.

An attack generally commences with the symptoms of a severe cold; flushing of the face, sneezing, running at the eyes, ringing dry cough, and often a sore throat. In infants an attack generally begins with convulsions.

The most dangerous symptoms are convulsions, dark lips, cold hands and feet, and a rapid feeble pulse.

It is wrong of parents to trust to household remedies in severe cases, and medical aid should be obtained as early as possible. Mild cases often escape detection till the rash appears.

When measles is prevalent all cases of severe cold should be looked upon with suspicion. Keep apart from other people and children anyone so suffering for four days at least; when if it is the measles the rash will appear.

If you delay isolation until the rash appears all that are susceptible who may have come into contact with the patient will inevitably be attacked later on.

Children of all ages and infants easily catch measles, and those who have had it may have it a second or even a third time.

Adults frequently are attacked.

Anyone who has been exposed to infection may not have the disease for fourteen days.

Prevent the disease coming into your house.

Ventilate your house freely by keeping your windows open as much as possible.

Let your children spend as much time as the weather will permit in the open air.

If anyone in your house catches the disease, consult a medical man at once, keep the patient in a room by himself, or herself for three weeks, however mild the attack, just as if it were scarlet fever or diphtheria.

Keep all your children away from school for 4 weeks after the last case commenced.

To prevent the disease spreading to other houses, forbid your house to all, and see that no one from your house goes visiting.

When the last case is free from contagion, disinfect the sickroom, or apply to the Sanitary Inspector, and he will disinfect for you. All bed linen and also linen worn by the patient, should be carefully boiled for a quarter of an hour.

All articles that will not bear washing, such as carpets and woolen material, should be disinfected.

C. W. VICKERS, D.P.H., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

District Council Offices, New St., Paignton.

This Act came into operation on the 1st January, 1896, and placed a lot of extra work upon the Medical Officer of Health. During the year I visited every workshop that I know of in the town. In some cases I found the air space required for each worker by the Act was not provided. In every case after measurement I gave notice to the owner the number of workers his workshop was adapted for. The application of this Act has been of great benefit to the work-people of this neighbourhood.

Factory and
Workshops
Acts, 1895.

For the improvement of the condition of the town, I would recommend that advantage be taken of the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890, to make new bye-laws with regard to the paving of back yards, courts, &c., and also for the regulation of traffic through the town.

Bye-laws.

Mr. Crathorn the Sanitary Inspector will in his report deal in detail of the sanitary work accomplished during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. VICKERS, D.P.H., LOND.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 15th, 1897.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Urban District Council of Paignton.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this, my second Annual Report, I think you will agree that considerable progress has been made during the year in the sanitary condition of a good number of houses in the town.

Notices.

Ten preliminary and 27 legal notices have been served under the Public Health Acts, all but two of which were complied with. One has been carried out by the Council themselves, and the expenses charged to the owners, the other is being carried out, but was not completed at the close of the year.

Drains, etc.

The drains of 59 houses have been examined and tested with the smoke test, and in all cases where found defective. I have consulted with the owners, and the necessary alterations have been carried out to put them in sound condition. 14 drains have been found choked, and notices have been served to have them cleared. 27 have been found defective, and repaired. 21 masons' traps out of order and not trapped have been condemned, and interceptors have been fitted in their place. 31 new gully traps have been put in place of bell and D traps. In twenty-five cases the drains were found in such a state that it was found necessary to have them taken up and relaid; one of which was an old stone drain carried under the wooden floor of a sitting-room. In thirty-two instances I found, upon examination, that the drains were in direct communication with the sewer, in each case I have seen that interceptor traps were fitted. I am glad to state that only upon one occasion were the notices in reference to drainage works ignored, and the Council had the works carried out themselves, and recovered the expenses from the owners.

Water
Closets.

Three new waterclosets have been built; 23 pan-containers and 23 long hopper closets have been taken out and new modern closets substituted; 54 closets have been fitted with water waste preventers. 23 soil pipes having been found defective have been repaired, 15 which were inside the walls, on being tested were found to have joints leaking, and were carried outside the wall.

Water.

The owners of 14 houses have been requested to take in town water, and have complied. In five instances I found the W.C.'s supplied direct from the drinking-water cistern,

which is a very dangerous means of contaminating the drinking water, and causing the spread of disease. In ten cases the overflows from rain-water and baths having been found carried direct into the drain have been taken out and carried over gullies ; 5 cisterns were found without covers and in a dirty condition. I would urge upon occupiers of houses to keep the cisterns properly cleaned out, and covered over. 5 samples of water have been taken from wells, and were handed to the Medical Officer of Health for analysis ; one well was closed on account of the water being found contaminated with sewage matter, and another is under consideration.

The drains of 32 new houses have been examined and tested, and I am glad to have to report that in several cases inspection chambers have been provided, and I would urge the great advantage obtained in keeping the drains in a good and proper state by having them put in every case. New Houses.

The scavenging of house refuse is now being carried on by the Council's own men in such a manner as to cause very few complaints, and I would request that the carts should be provided with covers, as their being about all the day causes a certain amount of annoyance to persons passing by them when standing, and would also prevent the rubbish being blown about the streets in windy weather. Scavenging.

I have made several visits to the whole of the dairies and cowhouses registered, which are kept in a fairly clean condition, but some of the latter are in such a dilapidated condition that it is almost an impossibility to keep them in order, and without a great alteration is made, I am of opinion that during the coming year we shall have to ask that some of them may be closed. Dairies.

The bakehouses have been visited several times during the year, and I have no cause of complaint as to their general cleanliness. One underground bakehouse has been closed, and a new one substituted. Bakehouses.

One new slaughter-house has been licensed, the others have been visited periodically ; in one instance the license had to be withheld for a time, on account of the dirty condition of the premises ; but the remainder are kept in a fairly good condition. Slaughter-houses.

One application has been made to the Council to carry on the trade of a tripe boiler. Food and Drugs Act.

Under this Act I have taken eight samples of milk and forwarded to the Analyst, who reported that one was adulterated with 23·6 per cent. of added water, and one with 25·9 per cent. Proceedings were instituted and convictions obtained ; in one case a penalty of £5 and costs was imposed ; in the other, not being pressed, 10/- without costs.

At the end of this report I have submitted to you a tabulated report of some of the works that have been carried out during the year.

In closing my report I should like to call the attention of the Council to the very dirty and unsanitary state of the back

yards of some of the small class of properties ; also to the fact that the drains of houses are being continually interfered with, without the knowledge of your officers, as I find in many instances when so interfered with they are left in a very bad and unhealthy condition ; and I would urge upon the Council the importance of at once making bye-laws under the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, in reference to the paving, &c., of yards, and also as to drains and sanitary conveniences, and the control of traffic during certain hours of the day.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Complaints received | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| Houses inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Preliminary notices issued | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Legal | „ | „ | ... | ... | 27 |
| Houses cleaned | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| „ disinfected | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Interceptor traps in place of mason's | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| House drains choked | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| „ „ defective repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| „ „ taken up and relaid | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| „ tested with smoke test | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| New water-waste preventers fixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| New W.C.'s in place of pan and container | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| „ „ long hopper | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Soil pipes repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| „ carried outside | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| New Gullies in place of defective Bell and D Traps... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Ashpits repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| New galvanised tins provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Overflow and rain-water pipes taken from drain | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Removal of offensive accumulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Notices to remove animals | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| New water supply to houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Wells closed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| New covers to water cisterns | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Closet supply cut off from drinking cistern | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| New W.C.'s built | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Overcrowded houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| New houses examined and tested drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| Cases of Infectious Diseases visited disinfectants supplied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Interceptor traps where drains not trapped | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| Dangerous buildings pulled down and rebuilt | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Samples of milk taken for Analyst | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| „ water | „ | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Letters and reports | ... | ... | ... | ... | 120 |

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CRATHORN, C.S.I.,

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

